THE DUANE STREET DISASTER

Coroner's Investigation Over the Victims.

EVIDENCE OF EYE WITNESSES.

The Falling of the Roof Described.

A MEMORIAL MASS.

Death Traps Found in Theatres and Churches.

WHAT IS NEEDED.

The investigation into the causes of the falling of the wall of the Shaw building upon the roof of was instantly killed and by which the congregation of the church were so infuriated or crazed with fear that in their flight to the street they trampled four other persons to death-was begun yesterday morning in the Coroners' Office. rooms were crowded. District Attorney Phelps was present, his appearance being a response to the following letter sent him on Saturday:-

the following letter sent him on Saturday:—

Comonke's Office, New York, Feb. 23, 1875.

Dear Sire-You will have perceived by the public prime that the examination of witnesses in the matter of the Duane street calamity will commence to-morrow (Monday, March I), atten o'clock A. M., at this office. As his is an unusual case, I invite the District Attorney to be present, either in person or by a representative everything, has been done so jar by me to insure a right and one of the matter and right investigation. A jury has been secured, composed of well-known citizens, every one of whom is above auspicton, and I desire that nothink shall be left andone to secure an impartial and just investigation. I am, dear sir, with high consideration, your obedient ervant.

To B. K. Phelips, Eqq., District Attorney.

In opening the case Coroner Eickhoff said:—

"We will now proceed to inquire what was the

"We will now proceed to inquire what was the first cause of the deaths of Mary G. Connors, Michael McCarthy and three other unfortunate persons who lost their lives on the evening of the th day of last mouth in St. Andrew's church, whither they went in devout moods, thoughtless of dying before the altar. Somebody must be responsible for causing their deaths. The wind is not the only culprit. The storm which occurred on the evening mentioned was not unusually severe, yet it overthrew the wall of a building. What is needed from this investigation is the dissovery of whoever is to blame for allowing an infrm wall to stand until a blast carries it down. REV. THOMAS CARROLL

was the first witness called. His testimony was as follows:-I live at St. Stephen's church and am clergyman; on the evening of February 25, 1875. there to preach; I was preaching for about twenty minutes, when I heard the wind blowing against the window; I stopped and reflected, as the wind very strong, and then continued discourse; soon alterward I saw and heard the plastering coming down from the ceiling of the church on the east side; immediately afterward there was a great panic and confusion, and I, at that was unable to form an idea of the danger; I thought the wind had lifted the roof off or had from appreciating the exact state of the church at the time; I escaped from the church with the others, but returned afterward; I went through the sacristy door, and then through the basement; I went to the Park Hospital, and anothted the people who were lying wounded there; that and I was not aware of any danger.

PATRICK F. MULDOON testified as follows:—I am a roundsman of police attached to the Twenty-sixth precinct; on the evening of February 25 I was attending services in St. Andrew's church; Father Carroll was preaching; about twenty minutes past eight o'clock I heard a rumbing noise which I thought was caused by a number of empty ice carts going through the street; I was sitting in the body of the shurch: I heard a crash and saw mortar, bricks and dirt falling and a number of people were thrown down; I jumped up on my seat and begged the people to remain quiet, as the langer was all over; I think the first noise was made by the tumbling of the loose bricks upon the slates of the roof of the church; I think that a few the plaster and bricks falling into the church; after the crash a great number of people were jumping over the side of the gallery into the body of the church: I caught in my arms one woman then some more bricks came down, and I retreated two pews; Father Curran asked me to go to the front door and get the other half of the doorway open; one half was already the people were lying against the and it was found that their presdoor, and it was found that their pressure alone kept it closed, as it was not boited; when they were removed the door was zamiy opened; I cannot say how the door of the church opened; passing the stairs leading to the gailery on the east side I noticed a number of women with their faces looking up the stairs, holding on to the handrail or something else, and it was with difficulty that they could be removed; I remained at the middle door by Father Curran's direction; the firemen soon came; I noticed some men pulling women out from under the ruins and heard cries for assistance; I saw four persons dead in Sweeny's Hotel, but did not see any dead in the courch; I reached the front door by going over the backs of pews a part of the way, and then went into the alse and picked wp a woman who was moaning; some people were lying in the vestibule, and I had to walk over them to get to the staircase leading to the east side gailery; I do not know where the people were killed; there are three doors on Duane street beside the door on City Hall place, by which people can leave the church; did not know the walls were dangerous; had never any intimation to that effect; heard at the time of the fire that they might tall upon the church.

LOUIS E. ROUSE

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LOUIS E. ROUSE

was the third witness, and said:—I live at No. 31

Pine street; on the evening of February 25 I was in the vestry of St. Andrew's church; I was acting as usher; there were about 800 people in the church, all sitting; I was sitting in a chair; another usher was in the vestry with me; I heard the ratting of the windows and thought that nail was knocking against them; Father Carroli stopped preaching for a moment; very soon there was a crash and some of the people arose and came toward the vestry; I wen' down stairs and opened the private door leading from City Hail place to the vestry; when I ppened the door a money box iell in iront of me; people were jumping out of the windown; I heard screams from the vestibule, and I ran down; I heard screams from the vestibule, and I ran down; I heard screams from the vestibule, and I ran down the middle aisle to the iront door and found it only hall open; the other half was bolted at the top, and the firemen and police were trying to get the crowd back to get the door open; I noticed several persons on the ground, among them the boy Feeney; they were lying in the vestibule at the foot of the stairs on the east side of the church; there was nothing to prevent the people at the castern door from leaving it and going out of the uniddle door.

Jamks J. Wynns

testified as follows;—i live at No. 42 Park street and am telegraph operator at Poffice Headquariers; on the evening of February 26 I was attending services in St. Andrew's courch; I was seated on the west side of the centre alse; I heard a crash and almost immediately afterward another crash, and looking up I saw the rool coming in; the aisles now became filled with people, and there was a great panic and continuing it put up and made my way to the centre aloor, which was half open; I endeavored to reach the bell, but coul

people from passing out that way; my impression is that the door was not closed.

BARTHOLOMEW BUCKLEY,
being sworn, testined:—I live at No. 17 City Hall place; on the evening of February 25 I was in the middle aisle of St. Andrew's church; I first heard a rattling of the windows of the church; the people then appeared to become irishtened; then I heard a crashing, and looking up, I saw a hole in the ceiting near the aitar, and almost immediately afterward another crash, and another hole was made in the ceiling; there was great confusion in the congregation; I got up and went into the middle alsie, where I was caught by the surging crowd and carried out of the middle door. Which was about three-quarters open; I was carried out to the stoop; afterward I went into the church again and saw a young man in the gallery calling out for the people to keep quiet; Officer Muldoon also called out for the people to keep quiet; Officer Muldoon also called out for the people to keep quiet; I went with them into the church again and saw a young man in the gallery, and not to throw themselves upon the people below; less than two minutes alterward the fromen came and went up stairs; I went with them into the eastern galvery; I saw one body—a woman's—being carried out by the firemen; see had been found in the gallery under some ruins; I think the firemen may have climbed into the gallery, as I saw a ladder standing against it; when I first heard the rattling of the windows Father Carroll was preaching; he stopped his discourse for a moment at the time; he had spoken probably five or six words after he had resumed preaching when the crash came.

Gave the following evidence:—I am the pastor of St. Andrew's church, and on the evening of February 25 I was in the church; Father Carroll was preaching; we were going on with our devotions when I heard a heavy crash, which was to me like alond clap of thunder after a vivid dash of them.

St. Andrew's church, and on the evening of February 25 I was in the church; Father Carroll was preaching; we were going on with our devotions when I heard a heavy crash, which was to me like a loud clap of thunder after a vivid flash of lighning; the windows had rattled before the crash came; I called out for the people to run; the priests left the altar, and I endeavored to keep quiet by calling at the top of my voice; there was great confusion, and people were running aboutthe strong running over the weak; the doors were all open; I saw no dead in the church; no one has spoken to me about the danger of the wall saling since the fire; at the time, and during the fire, I was warned by some officers to keep away from the wall, as it was dangerous; after the fire was over I had no intimation of the dangerous condition of that wall; I think that there were about 200 people in each gallery on the night of the catastrophe; after the fire I was told by the insurance authorities to go on and fix up the church which had been damaged by the flames; part of the eaves of the church had been burned and some of the ornaments of the church had been injured by the hose bursting; some holes had to be cut through the floor to allow the water to run through into the sand; so har as I know no examination has been made of the means of egress from the church.

REV. EDWARD J. FLYNN testified;—I am assistant pastor of St. Andrew's

through into the sand; so lar as I know no examination has been made of the means of egress from the church.

REV. EDWARD J. FLYNN

testified:—I am assistant pastor of St. Andrew's church; on the evening of February 26 I was in St. Andrew's church; I was seated in the choir gallery listening to the sermon of Father Carroli; the preaching had been going on for about twenty minutes when there was a sound of rushing wind which ratified the windows; almost immediately afterward there seemed to be a second gale; Father Carroll stopped speaking for a moment and then resumed; almost immediately afterward there seemed to be a second gale; Father Carroll stopped speaking for a moment and then resumed; almost immediately afterward I heard a crash, and looking toward the east side I saw a hole in the celing; there was a plank of peculiar shape coming through the aperture. It was long and sharpened at the lower end; in its descent it seemed to be retarded by some power out of sight; going into the western gallery I saw its occupants rushing and pushing to get down stairs; the staircase was crowded with a mass of humanity, mide up principally of women, old and young, and little girls; all were frantically trying to reach the loot of the stairs, but they were so packed together that they could not move; a little girl in the crowd; I wished then to clear the staircase, and I called upon several gentlemen to assist me in clearing it, their efforts and mine soon overcame the crush on the staircase, and in called upon several of the church to her and then went into the street, where there was a great crowd collected; I returned to the church to her and then went into the street, where there was a great crowd collected; I returned to the church to he sufferers; I also went to the Fark Hospital, where I administered the rites of the Church to he sufferers; I also went to the Sixth precinct station house, but not to Sweny's Hotel; I saw no dead in the church; on the morning of the fire I was in the basement of the church saving som of danger.
The inquest was adjourned until this morning at ten o'clock.

THE MEMORIAL MASS. SERVICES AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH-SYMPATHY

MANIFESTED. There was a beautiful religious service in St. Peter's church vesterday morning at ten o'clock. the five unfortunate beings who were killed al-Thursday night last and it was termed a time. morial mass." The church was crowded with people. Sympathy and pity for the fate of the victims drew them together and inspired them to pray fervently that they should not suffer in the hereafter who have felt excessive anguish here. The service had beside a mournful interest for many people of faith different from the creed of the dead who were mourned for. The mass had a peculiar solemnity and sorrowful character. Everything and every-

body was sombre. The altar cloths were black, and the vestments of the priests and the cassocks of the applytes were of the same raven hue. and the vestments of the priests and the cassocks of the acolytes were of the same raveu hue.

The celebrant of the mass was the Rev. Father Michael Curran, the pastor of St. Andrew's church. The duty of conducting services for the benefit of the souls of his deceased parishioners was one appropriate for him, but it must have carried with it anguishing thought and must have wrought mental pictures of disaster and death torturing to the annable old priest. The deacon in the mass was Rev. Father Henry, and the subdeacon Father Corley, of St. Peter's church. After the first dospel the Rev. Father O'Farrell ascended to the altar and delived a brief address on the religious lesson of the calamity by which the five human beings, for whose souls the mass was celeotrated, had been hurried out of the world. He urged upon his hearers the fact that the disaster enforces the fact that a Christian should live so as to be always prepared for death. No one can tell when the summons may come to him. A church seems to people to be a place into which death cannot set foot; yet those poor people were stricken down in the sanctuary in which they had always left themselves to be saie. Father Curran, a priest who, after fifty years of service in the ministry, meets his greatest misortune. Father Curran has been the friond, the parent, the brother, the essential relative to every one of his parishioners. He has regarded them all as the gifts of God to himself, and the misortune which has failen and toaloed so many of them urings to him the most poignant sufferings. Father O'Farrell's sermon deeply impressed his hearers, and when the reverend gentieman invited the people before him to contribute toward benefiting the families of the dead and wounded, generous responses were made to his appeal.

CHURCHES AND THEATRES.

THE LIFE GUARDS REQUIRED IN THEM-START LING STATEMENTS BY THE INSPECTOR-DEATH IN THE CHURCH, THE THEATRE AND SCHOOL-ROOM.

The recent deplorable accident at St. Andrew's church, by which so many lives were lost and so large a number of devout worshippers maimed, has has often alluded. Time and again the HERALD has commented upon the danger attending religious services in our crowded churches and witnessing the amusements given our people by the managers who cater to metropolitan theatre-goers; yet these warnings have, in a great dreds of places in this city where large numbers congregate that are

DEATH TRAPS
of the most dangerous character. This is shown in the list of church inspections that appeared in vesterday's HERALD. These examinations were made by a corps of careful inspectors sent out directly from the office, and they show the follow ing alarming state of things :-

Number of doors opening outward... Number of doors opening inward Number of doors sidning back... Number of doors sidning back...

by every worshipper in our city churches. Church architecture certainly requires a great revolution when we find that out of 170, 123 of the outer doors swing inwardly, thus supplying a certain blockade to egress in the event of a sudden panic such as seized the congregation of St. Andrew's on Thursday night, and offering the barvester Death ample opportunities to use his soythe to effect. In nearly all our churches the doors dividing the lobby from the auditorium swing outward, thus enabling the audience to be easily emptied in case of emergency into the looby. But what is the advantage of this precaution if the outer doors are found closed, and they cannot be opened owing to a mass of excited people being forced against

them. It matters but little to the victim whether he be burned to death in the body of the edifice of in the lobbles. There is, in fact, more hope for escape if the doors dividing the lobby from the main body of the church were closed, for in that case, retreat being cut off, the audience would naturally resort to the windows as a means of escape. Once jammed into a lobby between two lines of doors opening in opposite directions, as these inspections show most of our churches are constructed, all means of egress are cut off and

NECESSARY PRECAUTION would suggest that during religious services all outer doors should be fastened back so as to permit free exit, yet there is no law on our stat-

permit free exit, yet there is no law on our statute books providing for such guard apainst accident or sudden panic. How far sextons and usiers resort to this precaution to prevent accident is shown by the list published yesterday, from which it appears that out of 170 cnurches visited, the front doors of

BUT ONE ARE LEFT OFEN

during the services. Architects who were visited yesterday agree that the only common sense way of providing means of egress from a church in case of panic is by having the outer doors open outwardly and by having the outer doors wide onen during the entire service. If it is found that the weather is too cold to leave the outer doors open, a double door should be provided at the main entrauces. The outer ones should swing both ways, so that they would be self-closing and sout out the draft, while the second or heavy one should be fastened back. At the conclusion of the services they could be secured, and the cost for this extra door outside of the main door would be a mere triffe compared with the security it would give to line. It is to be regretted that we have no laws at all adequate to guard against the dangers referred to. Too much is left entirely to the judgment and

the judgment and CAPRICE OF THE INSPECTOR of the Building Department, who is not always gitted with sufficient intelligence to detect the danger or the armness to enforce his demands. The section of the law requiating all buildings of a public character, including botels, churches, theatres, school houses, restaurants, railroad depots, public halls, &c., is to be found in chapter 626, passed April 20, 1871, section 20:—

Geo., passed April 20, 1871, section 29:—

In all buildings of a public character already erected or hereafter to be built in said city, such as hotels, churches, theatres, school houses, restaurants, railroad depots, public halls and other buildings used or lutended to be used for purposes of public annusement or instruction, the halts, doors, statirways, seats and asides shall be so arranged as to facilitate egress in cases of fire or acculent, and to afford the requisite and proper accommodation for the public protection in such cases; and all asides and passageways in said buildings devoted to purposes of amusement or instruction shall be kept free from camp stoois, chairs, sofas and other obstructions during any performance, service, exhibition, fecture, concert, bail, or any public assemblinge; and the Superintendent of Buildings may at any time serve a written or print of Buildings in the server as written or print of Buildings directing any season of the server as written or print of Buildings and the several habitances therewith connected, such as halls, doors, stairs, windows, seats, asies and escapes, so as to afford the greatest possible security to the public in the uses to which they may be severally applied.

It will be observed that the wording of the law

pinness therewith connected, such as hairs, doors, stairs, windows, seats, asies and escapes, so as to afford the greatest possible security to the public in the uses to which they may be severally applied.

It will be observed that the wording of the law its very uncefluite, while very generally it makes no provision as to how these doors and other modes of emptying a church or theatre shall be constructed. That is left entirely to the inspector. The law, however, provides a fine of \$50 for any violation, such as placing camp stools or CHAIRS IN THEATRE AISLES.

This act by no means meets the requirements as regards churches, school houses and theatres. Mr. McGregor, the late Superintendent of Buildings, in the session of 1871 spent many weeks at the Legislature encesvoring to secure a stringent law, but he met with so much opposition in every step he took, from architects and builders, that this imperiect act was all that could be obtained. The present Legislature should not adjourn without grapping with this subject. Stringent laws should be passed defining how each door and stairway should be constructed in every public building, and fixing a heavy penalty upon church officers or theatrical managers who lock in an audence by closing the means of quick exit in case of emergency. It is grathying to know that managers of places of public amusement are now very generally complying with such suggestions as the inspectors make for the better security of file.

With a view of covering the responsibility of the non-compliance with the law, the writer yesterday called at the Department of Buildings and applied to the Secretary, Mr. Donaldson, for information. This gentleman, who is always prompt to give any information the department may suggest, stated that the department exercise, through its inspectors, careful scrutiny over all buildings where people congregate, and, so far as it can, under the imperfect law, enforces it. The theatres have in the past given the department and the watchfuiness of the inspectors o

mily communicated the results of his examinations.

CONDITION OF THE THEATRES.

Inspector Silabes states that under the above law the department has taid down certain rules regarding theatres. In the first place, as regards "fire guards," he reports that in every theatre from lour to eight fire extinguishers are to be placed on the stage. Then there snail be kept as many water buckets as the inspector may order running from ten to twenty-lour, according to the size of the stage. In places where there are ballet performances a number of wet blankets are to be left on each corner of the stage to throw over girls whose clothes may become ignited. In such theatres as Booth's and the Grand Opera House they also provide water sprays over the flues, by which, in case of a fire, they can let on a heavy shower of water to extinguish it. The Grand Opera House has, in addition, a water spray in the ceiling by which the audience can be instantly covered by a shower of water and the progress of the fire checked. In all first class theatres the department requires as an additional "fire guard" sufficient hose of from one and a half to two incues diameter on each side of the stage to cover it, axes to cut away machinery and other necessaries. They have gas jets protected by wire screens to prevent fire.

other necessaries. They have gas jets protected by wire screens to provent fire.

Engress in Case of Fire.

The department through its inspectors regulate the width of stairways, alsies, etc., according to the number of seats in a beach. The alsie should at all times be from three to four feet wide. He reports that the law preventing the employment of camp stools and chars in the aises is generally complied with. There is one exception, white they are used, and although repeatedly reported the managers still persist in openly violating the law. The inspector exhibited to the writer his book showing that in Peousry he reported violations of this character several times, and stated that alter leng reported they would for a day or two discoulting their inspector exhibited to the writer his book showing that in Peousry he reported violations of this character several times, and stated that alter leng reported they would for a day or two discoultine their use, out although there is not discoultine, they remained their state of the st ger of the audience being blocked in.

Such were the results of the investigations of a representative of the Herald yesterday. From them the reader will see that the laws are entirely management for the protection of life in theatres, places of amy of our schools, colleges and hotels. What is needed is more explicit legislation and

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-Last evening I attended service at the Collegiate Reformed Dutch church, corner of Fifth avenue and Twenty-ninth street. I was a little late. They were singing, the first hymn. The contre doors were locked: a notice was posted to go to the side doors. If an alarm of fire had been given, what would have been the consequence, the doors opening inwardly. Very respectfully, MARCH 1, 1875. SAFETY.

provision in the form of heavy fines for any viola-

A CONGREGATION LOCKED IN IN FIFTH AVENUE.

A CORRECTION. NEW YORK, March 1, 1875.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—
In your report to-day on the church doors you class St. Alphonsus' church, in South Pifth avenue, as having its doors open inwardly. Please allow us to say that your reporters were mistaken as all of the seven street doors in our caurch open outwardly, and 2,000 persons can pass out in four minutes. THE REDEMPTORIST FATHERS.

NEW YORK CITY.

The month of March opened yesterday with a snowstorm, followed by hall, and it was very cold. Owing to the illness of Mr. Strahan, counsel for Superintendent Walling, the trial of that official was postponed until Friday.

A slight fire yesterday morning on the third noor of No. 33 Jackson street was caused by a kerosene lamp explosion. Damage \$100. Palloni Giovani, cook on the bark Prince, lying

at pier No. 54 East River, had his hand caught by a hawser and was severely injured yesterday. The Tammany Society held its regular monthly meeting last night, when among others Mayor Traphagen, of Jersey City, and Congressman Meade were initiated. On February 20 the City Chamberlain had of

city funds \$974.247. He received last week \$300,890, disbursed \$505,715, and had a balance on hand on Saturday of \$719,431. Mrs. Shepard will, at three P. M. to-day, read a

paper on "Knowledge of Good and Evil, the Basis of Morality," before the Women's Social Educa-tional Society, at No. 44 Union square. James McDermott, aged nineteen, residing at No. 320 West Forty-eighth street, was run over and dangerously injured at the corner of Chambers and Centre streets. The driver, Charles Wagner,

Dr. William Ribbard, formerly President of the Bowery Fire Insurance Company, was buried yesterday from St. Paul's Methodist Eniscopal church, Bishop James officiating. The remains were in-terred at Yonkers.

The Ancient Britons' (Welsh) Benefit Society held its annual meeting yesterday and elected the following officers:—Evan Jones, President; David E. Rees, Vice President; William Lewis, Secretary; John J. Thomas and William R. Martin, Stewards. The New York Neurological Society held its

lege of Physicians and Surgeons. Owing to the inclement weather but few members were in attendance and the meeting was adjourned until next week. eleventh regular meeting last evening at the Col-Marianne, wife of ex-Surrogate Alexander W.

Bradford, was buried yesterday from the Church of the Transfiguration. H. B. Chapman, Professor Drisier, Dr. O. P. Wells, Dr. J. C. Jay, Judges H. E. Davies and W. E. Curtis, and D. R. Jaques and S. P. Nash were the pallocarers. The Cuban cause will receive a benefit this evening at Tammany Hall. Seven of the leading

their services, and the ladies will be thus afforded another chance of witnessing the result of long practice at a game of skill that has become the popular indoor amusement of the citizens of the The St. David's (Welsh) Benefit Society held its

annual meeting yesterday, when the following omcers were elected:—President, John L. Davies; Vice President, Henry Parry; Treasurer, William D. Davies; Secretary, Robert H. Roberts; Stewards, William R. Martin and W. R. Roberts; Directors, W. Jones, D. H. Morris, D. E. Reese, Edward Lumbey and Ed. Richard.

BROOKLYN.

There were 354 persons arrested by the police last week. Thomas Hunt and Patrick McGinness, boys

seventeen years of age, quarrelled on Columbia street, near King, on Sunday night, when the former stabbed McGinness in the side, indicting a painful, though not dangerous wound. The would-be assassin made good his escape.

There was a meeting of the Bridge Directors held yesterday afternoon at the office of that comnany, ex-Senator H. C. Murphy in the chair. Mr. w. C. Kingsley, from the committee appointed to consider the promosed bill for the action of the Legislature, reported that they had decided to submit the document to the Board without alterations. Mr. Carroil expressed the opinion that there was some doubt as to whether the clies would make the bridge a public thoroughfare or charge toll. It was resolved to make the term of office of the future Board of Directors two years, and after some other minor amendments the Board anjourned.

LONG ISLAND.

The Revenswood and Astoria Railroad will be opened about the 21st inst. The Jane Moseley, of the Long Branch line, was yesterday sold to the Quintard line. Bishop Littlejohn will confirm converts at St.

John's, Hunters Point, on Friday evening next. Long Island City is dissatisfied with its gas supnly and the city are organizing a new company. the charter elections on the second Tuesday in

The Taxpayers' Association of Long Island have elected Henry Sharkey President and J. H. Living-ston Secretary. Long Island City taxpayers petition the Common

Thursday evening the citizens of Jamaica will vote on the proposition to bond the village in \$35,000 for a new schoolhouse, or \$5,000 for improvements to the old one.

NEW JERSEY.

In the Court of Quarter Sessions at Jersey City. itentiary for three months for larceny; John Buff, larceny, two months; Edward Remington and William Jones, larceny, three months.

The heaviest portion of the criminal calendar of Hudson county has yet to be disposed of. Beside the trial of Hamilton, the defaulting City Treasurer, and Kienen, the defaulting bank secretary, there remains the trial of Hunt, Gillian and Cosgroves, for the homicide of William Livingstone.

The land adjoining the eastern entrance to the

Western Railroad Company is rapidly sinking. As ast as the rubble stones from the excavations are

Bajore Recorder Bohnstedt, in Hoboken vesterday, a case of the ownership of a valuable horse came up for consideration. Mr. Nevius, a prominen came up for consideration. Mr. Nevius, a prominent contractor, and a geutleman from Staten Island, lay claim to the animal. The latter claimant's iriends stealthily took the horse from the stable at Weenawken, but they were arrested before they could escape. As the Recorder dismissed the case there were various conjectures as to who the legitimate owner is.

The two horse railroads of Hudson county have joined hands for the purpose of defeating the rival joined hands for the purpose of the two railroad schemes in the Legislature. The two railroad schemes, Messrs, Bonn and Keeney, had a long conference yesterday afternoon, after which Mr. new rairroad passed the lower house and had a second reading in the Senate, and Mr. Sheeran's bill will be passed in the House this week. Both these railroad schemes are based on the principle of cheap transportation.

An investigation of the cause of the increase of

wrangle between the Health Inspector and the County Board of Health on the question of vaccination. Each contends that it is the duty of the other to see that the vaccination is performed, and consequently the duty is neglected in every case where it is not performed by private physicians. If the new charter of Jersey City be passed the office of Health Inspector will be given only to a Dhysician who will attend punctually to his duties. wrangle between the Health Inspector and the

William Paxton, the last of the gang arrested on suspicion of thieving at the Cunard dock, was discharged yesterday morning. No c.ew has been obtained to the whereabouts of the thieves who were chased from the Cardiff dock on Friday night, although a close watch is kept over the wharves, under which they disappeared, and where their boats must certainty be lying. The Cunard and Cardiff companies have agreed to offer a reward for information that may lead to the arrest of these robbers, who will, if caught, get a taste of Jersey justice.

MUNICIPAL CHANGES.

Resignation of Commissioner George M. Van Nort as Commissione. of Public Works.

FITZ JOHN PORTER HIS SUCCESSOR.

Correspondence Between the Mayor and Mr. Van Nort.

HIS RECORD IN THE DEPARTMENT.

The rumors that have been so rife during the past two weeks relative to the retirement of George M. Van Nort from the position of Commissioner of Public Works crystallized yesterday in his resignation from office and the appointment resignation of Mr. Van Nort had in a measure been anticipated during the day by the politicians, but most of them seemed to be considerably at sea as to who the new Commissioner would be. Many believed that either George W. De Forrest, Arthur Leary or some other prominent Tammanvite was tively, put any faith in the rumor that the place of honor was reserved for General Porter. Although it was quite late in the day when the Mayor received Mr. Van Nort's letter of resignation and appointed his successor, there was quite a number of the Alde men and other politicians in the City Hall, who remained down town longer than usual, with the hope of learning exactly what was to be done by the Mayor. There was considerable excitement manifested all round when the news finally leaked out, and, judging from the expressions made use of as well by the loungers who hold public office as by those who hope to very soon, the appointment of General Porter was not a welcome one. On receiving his appointment General Porter was at once sworn in by the Mayor. When asked when he would take charge of Department of Public Works he said that he it is pretty certain that many changes will be made in the department as soon as the new Commissioner gets his hand in, he had not as yet, he said, determined upon appointing his chief deputy; and it is the general belief that the present deputy. Mr. E. P. Barker can hold over if he feels inclined. However, it is quite probable that he, too, will resign. Mr. Van Nort and Mr. Barker, it may be said, have been associated together in the Department of Parks and Works for upwards of eighteen

to the position he has just vacated. He was Secretary of the Park Department in 1858, and was made Comptroller of it in 1870, being succeeded as Secretary by Mr. Barker. Previous to his connection with the Park Department he held office in 1856, under Lorenzo Burroughs, State Comptroller, and was Deputy Clerk in the Legis-lature. The following is the correspondence be-tween the Mayor and Mr. Van Nort:—

MR. VAN NORT'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION.

NEW YORK, March 1, 1975.

JOHN TORK HAMMAN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK;—

HON. WILLIAM H. WICKHAM, Mayor of the city of New York:—

SIR—Herewith I submit a condensed statement of the trans actions of the Department of Public Works for the period of three years, during which time I have discharged the dudles of Commissioner.

The condition of affairs and of the public mind at the time I came into the office are too well known to need at my hands a recapitulation.

At that period of transition I was appointed as the successor of Mr. Tweed, as Mr. Green was appointed the successor of Mr. Connolly and Mr. Stebbins was appointed the successor of Mr. Sweeny. Like both of these latter appointees of Mayor Hall I was absolutely free from any obligations to or affiliations with the retiring heads of three of the most important departments of the city government. heads of three of the most inportant departments of the city government.

My official record will show how far I have carried out in my department the policy of "retrenchment and reform" which was demanded by the taxpayers of this city, as represented by the "Committee of Seventy," and accepted by Mayor Hall in his last important ap-

and accepted by sayor that it his last important ap-pointments.

To reduce the current expenditures of the department and at the same time not only maintain but promote its efficiency required much care and labor.

The satisfactory results herewith shown have been ac-complished amid all the discord and lack of harmosy that has characterized the city government during this period.

periol.
Since my control of the department I have annually made known to the Mayor and Common Council the wants and requirements of the department; but in most cases have falled to receive that co-operation which the public interest seemed to require, leaving to me alone the responsibility of procuring the necessary legislation for the beneficial working of this branch of the city government.

for the beneficial working of this branch of the city government.

All the legislation that has been procured for the department has been without expense to the city.

As you are aware, I have, during the brief term which has elapsed since you became chief magistrate of the city, communicated with you on several subjects of vital importance to the city requiring legislation.

I have explained to you the object of public improvements in progress and those in contemplation, and have discussed with you the subject of repavements, and submitted to you two several drafts of acts necessary to provide for putting the pavements in a proper condition on a reasonable and equitable basis of expense to the taxpayers.

on a reasonable and equitable basis of expense to the taxpayers. I have also made known to you the wants of the city including the two newly annexed wards, in reference to furnishing an ample supply of Croton water at every point in the whole city, and submitted to you a draft of an act necessary to complete and carry out the same, without which the system of mains already laid and being laid cannot be brought into use, thus defeating the project now within the grasp of the city of furnishing Croton water in buildants of great altitude and insuring an unlimited supply throughout the lower part of the city in ease of fire.

Although sufficient time may not have elapsed since you assumed the duties of your office for you to act on these matters, I am firmly convinced of the fact that the party now dominant in the city and state, being at varance with my views, is unwhiling to invest this department, with me at its head, with the power necessary to carry forward such works to completion. Such being the case, it would be a grave injustice to the taxpayers for me to continue in a position where their interests would in any case suffer.

Recognizing, as I did a year since, that with the lack of harmony existing in the city government, embarrassing and hindering the prosecution of public improvements to which the city was committed and for which the property owners had paid large amounts in assessments, and considering that a harmonious government and the interests of the taxpayers, should be the paramount

property owners had paid large amounts in assessments, and considering that a harmonius government and the interests of the taxpayers should be the paramount thought and duty of every official. Intimated my linention of resigning my office, and only upon the carnest solicitation of such taxpayers did I consent to remain.

After much thought and careful consideration I have now decided that rather than continue in office under so many embarrassinents during the few remaining months of my term, I preser to rest upon the results already accomplished. Interior I do nearly resign the office of Commissioner of Public Works, to take effect upon the accession of my successor, and am, very respectfully, GEORGE M. VAN NORT.

THE MAYOR'S REPLY.

THE MAYOR'S REPLY.

EXECUTIVE DEFARTMENT,
EXECUTIVE DEFARTMENT,
EXECUTIVE DEFARTMENT,
DEAR SIK—I have receive your communication of this
date, submitting a condensed statement of the transactions of the Department of Public Works for the three
years during which you have been the Commissioner,
and resigning the office rather than continue in it under
the circumstances to which you call my attention.
I was not unprepared for the communication, in fact,
intimations made by you in a number of recent conversations had led me to expect it. But I none the less
regret that the circumstances of the present political
situation should so seriously affect the usefulness of a
distinguished public servant as to seem to him to make
his voluntary withdrawal from office a duty to the community which he has served so long and with notable
results.

his voluntary withdrawal from office a duty to the community which he has served so long and with notable results.

The difficulties and obstructions you have had to content against have been manifest. But so far as my personal knowledge of your administration of the department extends it has been efficient, and nothing has been brought to my official notice which impairs your reputation for integrity.

Certainly, I have observed no department of the city government which its so well organized as yours has been, or in which pusiness has been conducted with such thorough system and such excellent methods as have been pursued in your office and in the several bureaus attached to it.

Your successor has unusual opportunities in beginning his term of service with the advantages, which your training and skill as an administrative officer have in these respects prepared for him.

With many thanks for the courteous consideration and attention which you have uniformly extended to me during our official intercourse, and with renewed assurances of my best wishes for your continued welfare, I am, respectfully.

With MI, WICKHAM, Mayor.

GENERAL FORTER'S APPOINTMENT.

I am. respectfully. WM. II. WICKHAM, Mayor.

GENERAL PORTER'S APPOINTMENT.

The following is General Porter's appointment, which was handed to him by the Mayor immediately after Mf. Van Nort had received the Mayor's reply to his letter of resignation:—

Mayor's reply to his letter of resignation:

Executive Department,

City Hall, New York, March 1, 1873.

I. William H. Wickham, Mayor of the tity of New York, by virtue of the power conferred supon me by vicapier 350 of the Laws of 1873, entitled 'An act to recognize the local government of the city of New York, passed April 30, 1873, and the acts amendatory thereof, do hereby appoint Fitz John Porter to be Commissioner of Public Works of the city of New York in the place of George M. Van Nort resigned, and for the unexpired term of said George M. Van Nort, which terminates on the 29th day of December, 1875.

WILLIAM H. WICKHAM.

General Porter's surety will be August Resignant General Porter's surety will be August Belmont

THE NEW COMMISSIONER

The new Commissioner, General Firz John Porer, is a native of New Hampsnire. He graduated at West Point in 1845, when he received a brevet second heutenancy in the Fourth artillery. In the war with Mexico he so distinguished himself in several battles by his bravery, that he was bre, veted captain, and atterward major. After that war ne became assistant instructor of artillery at West Point. In 1853 he was made Adjutant of the

alry and artiliery. In 1856 he was appointed Adjetant General, with the rank of captain. On the outbreak of the war he was made Colonel of the Fith United States injantry, and soon after be came a brigadier general of volunteers. He directed the stege works before Yorktown, and for his services on the Chickahominy was appointed Major General of Volunteers and atterward Brigadier General in the regular army. He led the retreat of the Army of the Potomac when General McClellau moved from Harrisson's Landing, and was temporarity attached to General Pope's command during the battles which were fought between the Rappatannock and Washington. General Pope found great fault with his ponduct while under his command, and made his consure the subject of a portion of his official report, and preferred charges against him. General Porter was, as a result of this, removed from his command; but, through the intervention of General McClellan, was afterward restored. He then sook part in the Maryland campaign, and was in command of the reserves at the oattle of Antietam. He was tried by court martial on the charges preferred against him by General Pope, and, on January 21, 1833, was cashiered from the service General Porter has been, and is now, a resident of New Jersey. General Porter is a democrat in politics.

MR. VAN NORT'S EXHIBIT. The following is an exhibit of the working of the Department of Public Works for the three years during which Mr. Van Nort has been in office;—
The expenditures of the Department of Public Works are divided into three classes:—
First—Expenditures met by general taxation; for the maintenance of the Croton Aquaduct, reservoirs and pipes, street pavements roadways, sewers, public buildings, for lighting the city with gas, for salaries of emproyes for turnishing and cleaning public offices, free floating baths, &c.

Second—Expenditures met by the issue of assessment bonds, and for which the city is reimbursed by the collection of assessments, for grading, paving, curbing, gutterness, and to which the city is reimbursed by the collection of assessments, for grading, paving, curbing, gutterness, contains and avenues.

The capital and improvement of the Croton main assetm, improvement and alterations of the aqueduct, construction of storage reservoirs and reconstruction of old sewers.

The expenditures on taxation account during the past three years were as follows:

The expenditures on taxation account during the past three years were as follows:

11 1874, exclusive of county purposes and lighting Twenty-third and Twenty fourth wards.

124,535.

The reduction in 1872, as compared with 1871, is.
The reduction in 1873, as compared with 1871, is.
The reduction in 1874, as compared with 1871, is.
1,700,822

Total reduction in three years... \$4,707,060
EXPENDITURES ON ACCOUNT OF ASSESSMENT FORD.
In 1872. \$2,575,705
In 1873. 4,464,572
In 1874. 4,531,443

Total for three years.
The expenditures on this account in 1871 were Reduction in 1872, as compared with 1871.
Reduction in 1874, as compared 1,023,856
Reduction in 1874, as compared with 1871.
Reduction in 1874, as compared with 1871.

STRUCTED.

MATERIAL STREET OF ACCOUNT OF THE FUNDED DRES.
IN 1872. \$1,599,612
In 1873. \$1,894,814
In 1874 \$1,399,997 Total for three years.

Expenditures on account of the funded debits?

Reduction in 1874 as compared with 1871.

B1, 437,857

Reduction in 1873 as compared with 1871.

1,533,157 Reduction in 1874 as compared with 1,883,157

ping pipes in 1872.
From Croton water rent, penalties and tapping pipes in 1873.
From Croton water rent, penalties and tapping pipes in 1873.
From Croton water rent, penalties and tapping pipes in 1874.

1.361.867 8,572,678 294.155

700,000

117,529

sources.

Arrears of water rent, which are a lieu on property.

Unexpended balances of appropriations returned to the general fund. 148,107 327,600

Showing a surplus over the expenditures of the department on account of the funded deut for three years of.

Another saving, which does not appear upon the books of the department, has been effected by the removal of the officers of the department to the City Hail amounting to \$30,000 annually, formerly paid for office rent. The removal took based May ist, 1878, and the saving to January 1st, 1878, amounts to \$30,000.

The reduction in the expenditures of the department, and the ingrease in revenue collected, during the past three years, as compared with the year 1871, together with the saving in office rent, may be summarized as tollows: \$4.787.050

Neduction in expenditures from taxation Reduction in expenditures from assessment bonds.
teduction in expensitures from funded bonds.
nerease in revenue from Croton water.
aving in office rent.....

INVESTIGATING GREEN.

THE ALDERMANIC COMMITTEE ADJOURN OVER TO THIS AFTERNOON.

Owing to the storm yesterday several of the most important witnesses who had been sum-moned to testify before the special Aldermanic committee as to what they knew about the misconduct of Green as Comptroller were unable to attend the session of the committee. Mr. A. Oakey Hall, who had been subpœnaed among others, appeared, but "a sexcused unsit to-day, as he had to attend to a case in the Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Wales, who was also present, stated that he would submit his written evidence (under oath) which was taken at the last session of the committee when the committee had no official stenographer to take down the testimony. The names of Mr. Van Nort and Mr. John Wheeler were called but there was no response. A messenger was sent for Mr. Van Nort, who sent back word that he was very busy but would appear in half an hour's time. A telegram was received from Mr. Haskin, another witness, that he was detained at white Plans. It being evident to the committee that the witnesses could not be got before them, an adjournment was taken until to-day at half-past one o'clock. conduct of Green as Comptroller were anable to

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN NEW JERSEY.

The arrangements for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day have been completed by the Irish societies of Jersey City, Hoboken and other parts of Hudson county. Twenty-six societies will be